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Christian-nation idea fuels U.S. conservative causes, but historians say it misreads founders' intent

By PETER SMITH
Associated Press

The U.S. Constitution doesn't mention Christianity or any specific religion. The Declaration of Independence famously proclaims that people's rights come from a "Creator" and "Nature's God" — but doesn't specify who that is.

Yet large numbers of Americans believe the founders intended the U.S. to be a Christian nation, and many believe it should be one. Such views are especially strong among Republicans and their white evangelical base. Already such views are being voiced by supporters of Donald Trump amid his bid to recapture

the presidency. The idea of a Christian America means different things to different people. Pollsters have found a wide circle of Americans who hold general God-and-country sentiments.

But within that is a smaller, hardcore group who also check other boxes in surveys — such as that the U.S. Constitution was inspired by God and that the federal government should declare the U.S. a Christian nation, advocate Christian values or stop enforcing the separation of church and state.

For those embracing that package of beliefs, it's more likely they'll have



Former President Donald Trump speaks during the Faith & Freedom Coalition Policy Conference in Washington, Saturday, June 24, 2023.

Associated Press

unfavorable views toward immigrants, dismiss or downplay the impact of anti-Black discrimination and believe Trump was a good or great president, according to a 2021 Pew Research Center survey.

This latter group reflects a

movement widely called Christian nationalism, which fuses American and Christian values, symbols and identity and seeks to privilege Christianity in public life.

The idea of Christian nationalism fills Americans' need

for an origin story, a belief that "we've come here for something special, and that we're here for God's work," said Eric McDaniel, an associate professor of government at the University of Texas.

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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

SUNDAY:	MONDAY:	TUESDAY:	WEDNESDAY:	THURSDAY:	FRIDAY:	SATURDAY:
MARRYBELL MADURO SINGER 6:30 - 8:30pm	ANGELA FLORES VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm	JEAN PAUL SAXOPHONIST 6:30 - 8:30pm	EDDIE KROON SINGER 4:00 - 6:00pm MAILLEYN ALVARADO VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm KARAOKE 9:00 - 11:00pm	MARRYBELL MADURO SINGER 6:30 - 8:30pm	RICKY THOMAS GUITARIST 7:00 - 9:00pm	EDDIE KROON SINGER 4:00 - 6:00pm ANGELA FLORES VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm

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Presidents Day: From George Washington's modest birthdays to big sales and 3-day weekends

By **BEN FINLEY**
ASSOCIATED PRESS
NORFOLK, Va. (AP) — Like the other Founding Fathers, George Washington was uneasy about the idea of publicly celebrating his life. He was the first leader of a new republic — not a tyrant.

And yet the nation will once again commemorate the first U.S. president on Monday, 292 years after he was born.

The meaning of Presidents Day has changed dramatically, from being mostly unremarkable and filled with work for Washington in the 1700s to the consumerism bonanza it has become today. For some historians the holiday has lost all discern-



John Lopes, playing the part of President George Washington, stands near the Washington Monument following a ribbon-cutting ceremony with first lady Melania Trump to re-open the monument, Thursday, Sept. 19, 2019, in Washington.

Associated Press

ible meaning. Historian Alexis Coe, author of "You Never Forget Your First: A Biography of George of Washington," said she

thinks about Presidents Day in much the same way as the towering monument in D.C. that bears his name. "It's supposed to be about

Washington, but can you really point to anything that looks or sounds like him?" she said. "Jefferson and Lincoln are presented as people with limbs and noses and words associated with their memorials. And he's just a giant, granite point. He has been sanded down to have absolutely no identifiable features."

Here is a look at how things have evolved:

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAYS
 Washington was born Feb. 22, 1732, on Popes Creek Plantation near the Potomac River in Virginia.

Technically, though, he was born Feb. 11 under the ancient Julian calendar, which was still in use for the first 20 years of his life. The Gregorian calendar, intended to more accurately mark the solar year, was adopted in 1752, adding 11 days.

Either way, Washington paid little attention to his birthday according to Mountvernon.org, the website of the organization that manages his estate. Surviving records make no mention of observances at Mount Vernon, while his diary shows he was often hard at work.

"If he had it his way, he would be at home with his family," Coe said. "Maybe some beloved nieces and nephews (and friend) Marquis de Lafayette would be ideal. And Martha's recipe for an indulgent cake. But that's about it."

Washington's birthday was celebrated by his peers in government when he was president — mostly.

Congress voted during his first two terms to take a short commemorative break each year, with one exception, his last birthday in office, Coe said. By then Washington was less popular, partisanship was rampant and many members of his original Cabinet were gone, including Thomas Jefferson.

"One way to show their disdain for his Federalist policies was to keep working through his birthday," Coe said.

The Library of Congress does note that a French military officer, the comte de Rochambeau, threw a ball celebrating Washington's 50th birthday in 1782.

AFTER HIS DEATH
 Washington was very aware of his inaugural role as president and its distinction from the British crown. He didn't want to be honored like a king, said Seth Bruggeman, a history professor at Temple University in Philadelphia.

Still, he said, a market for Washington memorabilia sprang up almost immediately after his death in 1799 at age 67, with people snapping up pottery and reproductions of etchings portraying him as a divine figure going off into heaven.

"Even in that early moment, Americans kind of conflated consumerism with patriotic memory," said Bruggeman, whose books include "Here, George Washington Was Born: Memory, Material Culture, and the Public History of a National Monument."

MAKING IT OFFICIAL
 It wasn't until 1832, the centennial of his birth, that Congress established a committee to arrange national "parades, orations and festivals," according to the Congressional Research Service.

And only in 1879 was his birthday formally made into a legal holiday for federal employees in the District of Columbia.

The official designation is as Washington's Birthday, although it has come to be known informally as Presidents Day. Arguments have been made to honor President Lincoln as well because his birthdate falls nearby, on Feb. 12.

A small number of states, including Illinois, observe Lincoln's birthday as a public holiday, according to the Library of Congress. And some commemorate both Lincoln and Washington on Presidents Day.

But on the federal level, the day is still officially Washington's Birthday. □

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Continued from Front

It creates a sense of "national innocence," so adherents resist confronting uglier parts of U.S. history, he said.

The belief connects to other beliefs past and present, from the Manifest Destiny doctrine that justified continental conquest to Trump's America First and Make America Great Again slogans, said McDaniel, a co-author of "The Everyday Crusade: Christian Nationalism in American Politics." Trump has echoed some of these ideas, vowing to bar immigrants who "don't like our religion."

Many conservatives and Republicans embrace the idea of Christian national origins, even as many reject the "Christian nationalist" label.

Republican House Speaker Mike Johnson has proclaimed that America is and was founded as a Christian nation and that Thomas Jefferson was "divinely inspired" in his writing of the Declaration of Independence, according to a 2015 sermon that drew wider attention with his recent election as speaker.

WallBuilders, an organization Johnson credits for its "profound influence" on him, has spread materials claiming that "revisionist" historians have downplayed America's Christian origins, but the group has been widely criticized for historically dubious claims. A lawsuit on its behalf is challenging the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's refusal to run its bus ads touting the purported beliefs of founders. Vocal supporters of Trump have described current politics as spiritual warfare for the destiny of a country that former Trump aide Steve Bannon described as the "New Jerusalem" and conservative activist Charlie Kirk said was founded by "courageous Bible believing Christians."

Recent Texas, Oklahoma and Kentucky Republican Party platforms proclaim the country was founded on "Judeo-Christian" principles.

The Rev. Robert Jeffress, pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas, said he doesn't



President Joe Biden, with from left, House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., and House Speaker Mike Johnson of La., pray and listen during the National Prayer Breakfast, Thursday, Feb. 1, 2024, at the Capitol in Washington.

identify as a Christian nationalist, but does believe America was founded as a Christian nation.

"I'm not claiming that all of our founders were Christians," he said in an interview. "Some were deists, some were atheists, but the majority were Christians. I'm also not saying that non-Christians shouldn't have the same rights as Christians in our country."

But he said "there's a case to be made that the Judeo-Christian faith was the foundation for our laws and many of our principles." He cited founder John Jay — the first Supreme Court chief justice — asserting it was Americans' duty "in our Christian nation, to select and prefer Christians for their rulers."

Jeffress said he doesn't believe America is privileged by God but, as with any nation, "God will continue to bless America to the extent that we follow him."

Anthea Butler, chair of religious studies at the Univer-

sity of Pennsylvania, said history precludes any idea of a Christian nation.

"It doesn't mean that Christians weren't a part of the founding of this nation," said Butler, a historian of African American and American religion. "What it does mean is that if you believe that America is a Christian nation and you happen to subscribe to Christian nationalism as a part of that, you're buying into a myth." That America-as-a-Christian-nation idea is "a trope of exclusion," she said, centering American history on white Anglo-Saxon Protestants as "the ones that are willing and should be running the country both then and now."

That justifies viewing others as "heathens," including the enslaved Blacks and the Native Americans whose land was being taken.

Those arguing for a Christian America are generally not historians and not really talking about history — they're talking politics, said

John Fea, author of the 2011 book "Was America Founded as a Christian Nation?"

"They appeal to a false view of the founding, or at least a partial view of the founding, to advance political agendas of the present," said Fea, a history professor at Messiah University, a Christian university in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. "These agendas are built on a very weak historical foundation."

The belief in America's Christian origins is mainstream.

Six in 10 U.S. adults said the founders intended America to be a Christian nation, according to a 2022 Pew Research Center survey. About 45% said the U.S. should be a Christian nation. Four in five white evangelical Protestants agreed with each assertion. By some measures, Democratic President Joe Biden might be seen in that category, citing the importance of his Catholic

faith and calling for God's blessings on America and its troops — but also invoking shared values "whether you're Christian, whether you're Jewish, Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist, or any other faith, or no faith at all."

One-third of U.S. adults surveyed in 2023 said God intended America to be a promised land for European Christians to set an example to the world, according to a Public Religion Research Institute (PRRI)/Brookings report.

Such surveys have found a smaller, more ardent group of believers in Christian nationhood. In another survey, PRRI identified about 10% of Americans as the most committed adherents.

The Constitution prohibits any religious test for office, and its First Amendment bars congressional establishment of any religion, along with guaranteeing free exercise of religion.

Defenders of Christian nationhood can point out that several of the 13 original states funded Protestant churches at their origins, though within a few decades all had followed Virginia's example in halting the practice. They can point to Christian rhetoric by some founders, such as John Jay, Patrick Henry and Samuel Adams.

But several key founders would never pass a test of orthodoxy. Thomas Jefferson, John Adams and Benjamin Franklin viewed Jesus as a great teacher but not as God.

"Could you find stuff where John Adams talks about religion being the foundation of the republic, like George Washington said in his farewell address?" asked Fea.

"Are there states where Christianity was privileged? Yes, you can find all those things. You can also find things to show the Constitution wants to keep religion and government separate." Some secular activists today advocate for an opposite view — that U.S. founders sought to banish religion from public life. Fea said that also goes too far: "When you're dealing with the 18th century, nuance and complexity is essential," he said. □

Associated Press

Suspect dead amid shooting that claimed the lives of 2 officers, 1 first responder, group says

By **STEVE KARNOWSKI and HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH**
Associated Press

BURNSVILLE, Minn. (AP) — A desperate call for help from a home in suburban Minneapolis early Sunday turned deadly for two police officers and a first responder who were shot and killed, according to officials. A suspect in the shooting also died, officials said.

The shootings took place in a suburban neighborhood in Burnsville, Minnesota, which was ringed with police cars that kept the press and public away from the scene where the shootings took place. The deaths of the two Burnsville police officers and the first responder were confirmed by the Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association. The association also said negotiations with a suspect went on for four hours before a SWAT team entered the home in the Minneapolis suburb of Burnsville. Seven children were inside the home. It wasn't immediately known if any of the children were harmed. Details on how the suspect



A police vehicle with what appears to be bullet pockmarks is towed near the scene where two police officers and a first responder were shot and killed Sunday, Feb. 18, 2024, in Burnsville, Minn. Associated Press

died were not immediately released.

City officials identified the slain officers as Paul Elmstrand and Matthew Ruge, both 27. Adam Finseth, 40, a firefighter and paramedic, also was killed. Another police officer, Sgt. Adam Medicott, was injured and

being treated at a hospital with what are believed to be non-life-threatening injuries, the city said.

"We are heartbroken. Our law enforcement community is heartbroken. We're just devastated at the horrific loss," Brian Peters, executive director of MPPOA,

which represents public safety professionals in the state, said in a statement.

The shooting happened in a tree-lined neighborhood with two-story homes. A police armored vehicle parked nearby had bullet damage to its windshield, but there was no confirma-

tion on whether that was the result of the incident. The street was lined with police cars, firefighters and ambulances.

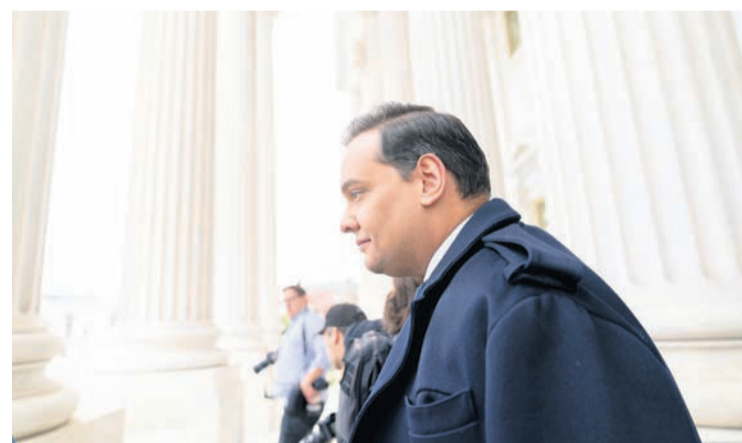
Burnsville police, fire and city officials, including the mayor, didn't immediately return phone or email messages from The Associated Press seeking comment.

Police scanner recordings on Broadcastify.com capture a rattled man saying, "I need any ambulance," as he struggled to catch his breath. Someone later could be heard talking about three being loaded into ambulances, uttering the word "critical."

"We must never take for granted the bravery and sacrifices our police officers and first responders make every day," Walz said. "My heart is with their families today and the entire State of Minnesota stands with Burnsville."

Other law enforcement agencies immediately began posting messages of condolence on social media, including images of badges with blue bars through them. □

George Santos sues late-night host Jimmy Kimmel for tricking him into making videos to ridicule him



Rep. George Santos, R-N.Y., leaves the Capitol after being expelled from the House of Representatives, Dec. 1, 2023, in Washington.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Former U.S. Rep. George Santos alleged in a lawsuit filed Saturday that late-night host Jimmy Kimmel deceived him into making videos on the Cameo app that were used to ridicule the disgraced New York Republi-

can on the show.

The lawsuit filed in U.S. district court for the southern district of New York names Kimmel, ABC and Walt Disney Co. as defendants. A Disney representative listed as a media contact for the Jimmy Kimmel Live! show

didn't immediately respond to an email from The Associated Press seeking comment.

Santos, who was expelled from the House of Representatives last year after being charged with multiple counts of fraud and stealing from donors, is suing over alleged copyright infringement, fraudulent inducement, breach of contract and unjust enrichment. Kimmel misrepresented himself to induce Santos to create personalized videos "capitalizing on and ridiculing" his "gregarious personality," the lawsuit alleges.

Through Cameo, Santos received requests from individuals and businesses seeking personalized video messages. Unbeknownst to Santos, Kimmel submitted

at least 14 requests that used phony names and narratives, according to the complaint.

Starting in December the videos were played on a segment, "Will Santos Say It?" the suit says.

In one of the clips, Santos offers congratulations to the purported winner of a beef-eating contest, calling the feat of consuming 6 pounds (2.7 kilograms) of loose ground beef in under 30 minutes "amazing and impressive."

"Frankly, Kimmel's fake requests were funny, but what he did was clear violation of copyright law," Robert Fantone, an attorney for Santos, said in an email.

Santos is seeking statutory damages totaling \$750,000 for the five videos he cre-

ated that were played on the show and various social media platforms. He also asks for other damages to be determined at trial.

The ex-lawmaker faces a slew of criminal charges, including allegations that he defrauded campaign donors, lied to Congress about his wealth, received unemployment benefits while employed and used campaign contributions to pay for personal expenses like designer clothing. He also is alleged to have made unauthorized charges on credit cards belonging to some of his donors. Santos pleaded not guilty to a revised indictment in October.

On Tuesday, Democrat Tom Suozzi won a special election for Santos' former seat. □

Top U.N. court to hold hearings on legality of the Israeli occupation of Palestinian-claimed lands

By MIKE CORDER and JULIA FRANKEL

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands

(AP) — The United Nations' highest court opens historic hearings Monday into the legality of Israel's 57-year occupation of lands sought for a Palestinian state, plunging the 15 international judges back into the heart of the decades-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Six days of hearings are scheduled at the International Court of Justice, during which an unprecedented number of countries will participate, as Israel continues its devastating assault on Gaza.

Though the case occurs against the backdrop of the Israel-Hamas war, it focuses instead on Israel's open-ended occupation of the West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem.

Palestinian representatives, who speak first on Monday, will argue that the Israeli occupation is illegal because it has violated three key tenets of international law, the Palestinian legal team told reporters Wednesday. They say that Israel has violated the prohibition on territorial conquest by annexing large swaths of occupied land, has violated the Palestinians' right to self-determination, and has imposed a system of racial discrimination and apartheid.

"We want to hear new words from the court," said Omar Awadallah, the head of the U.N. organizations department in the Palestinian Foreign Ministry.

"They've had to consider the word genocide in the South Africa case," he said, referring to a separate case before the court. "Now we want them to consider apartheid."

Awadallah said an advisory opinion from the court "will give us many tools, using peaceful international law methods and tools, to confront the illegalities of the occupation."

The court will likely take months to rule. But experts say the decision, though



Israeli soldiers speak to a Palestinian woman near the site of an alleged car-ramming attack near Beit Hagai, a Jewish settlement in the hills south of the large Palestinian city of Hebron, Wednesday, Aug. 30, 2023.

Associated Press

not legally binding, could profoundly impact international jurisprudence, international aid to Israel and public opinion.

"The case will put before the court a litany of accusations and allegations and grievances which are probably going to be uncomfortable and embarrassing for Israel, given the war and the already very polarized international environment," said Yuval Shany, a law professor at Hebrew University and senior fellow at the Israel Democracy Institute. Israel is not scheduled to speak during the hearings, but could submit a written statement. Shany said Israel will likely justify the ongoing occupation on security grounds, especially in the absence of a peace deal. It is likely to point to the Oct. 7 attack in which Hamas-led militants from Gaza killed 1,200 people across southern Israel and dragged 250 hostages back to the territory.

"There is this narrative that territories from which Israel withdraws, like Gaza, can

potentially transform into very serious security risks," Shany said. "If anything, Oct. 7 underscored the traditional Israeli security rationale to justify unending occupation."

But Palestinians and leading rights groups say the occupation goes far beyond defensive measures. They say it has morphed into an apartheid system, bolstered by settlement building on occupied lands, that gives Palestinians second-class status and is designed to maintain Jewish hegemony from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea. Israel rejects any accusation of apartheid.

The case arrives at the court after the U.N. General Assembly voted by a wide margin in December 2022 to ask the world court for a non-binding advisory opinion on one of the world's longest-running and thorniest disputes. The request was promoted by the Palestinians and opposed vehemently by Israel. Fifty countries abstained from voting.

In a written statement before the vote, Israel's U.N. Ambassador Gilad Erdan called the measure "outrageous," the U.N. "morally bankrupt and politicized" and any potential decision from the court "completely illegitimate."

After the Palestinians present their arguments, 51 countries and three organizations — the League of Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and the African Union will address the panel of judges in the wood-paneled Great Hall of Justice. Israel captured the West Bank, east Jerusalem and Gaza Strip in the 1967 Middle East war. The Palestinians seek all three areas for an independent state. Israel considers the West Bank to be disputed territory, whose future should be decided in negotiations.

It has built 146 settlements, according to watchdog group Peace Now, home to more than 500,000 Jewish settlers. The West Bank settler population has grown by more than 15% in

the last five years according to a pro-settler group.

Israel also has annexed east Jerusalem and considers the entire city to be its capital. An additional 200,000 Israelis live in settlements built in east Jerusalem that Israel considers to be neighborhoods of its capital. Palestinian residents of the city face systematic discrimination, making it difficult for them to build new homes or expand existing ones.

The international community overwhelmingly considers the settlements to be illegal. Israel's annexation of east Jerusalem, home to the city's most sensitive holy sites, is not internationally recognized.

It's not the first time the court has been asked to give an advisory opinion on Israeli policies or to declare an occupation illegal.

In 2004, the court said that a separation barrier Israel built through east Jerusalem and parts of the West Bank was "contrary to international law." It also called on Israel to immediately halt construction. Israel has ignored the ruling.

In a 1971 case the Palestinian legal team is likely to draw from, the court issued an advisory opinion finding that the South African occupation of Namibia was illegal, and said that South Africa had to immediately withdraw from the country. Also, late last month, the court ordered Israel to do all it can to prevent death, destruction and any acts of genocide in its campaign in Gaza. South Africa filed the case accusing Israel of genocide, a charge that Israel denied.

South African representatives are scheduled to speak Tuesday.

The country's governing party, the African National Congress, has long compared Israel's policies in Gaza and the West Bank to the apartheid regime of white minority rule in South Africa, which restricted most Black people to "homelands" before ending in 1994. □

Taliban decrees on clothing and male guardians leave Afghan women scared

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Afghan women feel scared or unsafe leaving their homes alone because of Taliban decrees and enforcement campaigns on clothing and male guardians, according to a report from the U.N. mission in Afghanistan.

The report, issued Friday, comes days before a U.N.-convened meeting in the Qatari capital is set to start, with member states and special envoys to Afghanistan due to discuss engagement with the Taliban and the country's crises, including the human rights situation.

The Taliban — which took over Afghanistan in 2021 during the final weeks of U.S. and NATO withdrawal from the country — have barred women from most areas of public life and stopped girls from going to school beyond the sixth grade as part of harsh measures they imposed despite initial promises of a more moderate rule.

They are also restricting women's access to work, travel and health care if they are unmarried or don't



Afghan women wait to receive food rations distributed by a humanitarian aid group, in Kabul, Afghanistan, on May 23, 2023.

Associated Press

have a male guardian, and arresting those who don't comply with the Taliban's interpretation of hijab, or Islamic headscarf.

The U.N. mission's report, published Friday, said the decrees are being enforced through arrest, harassment and intimidation. Women said they increasingly fear going to public spaces owing to the threat

of arrest and the "long-lasting stigma and shame" associated with being taken into police custody.

Over half of the women interviewed for the report felt unsafe leaving the house without a male guardian, or mahram. Risks to their security and their anxiety levels worsened whenever a new decree was announced specifically targeting them,

the report said. Women who went out with a mahram felt safer but noted the stress from depending on another person to accompany them. Some said their male guardians chided them for "wasting time" if they wanted to visit certain shops or stray from a route limited to performing basic necessary tasks.

This undercut chances to

"enjoy even micro-moments of stimulation or leisure" outside the home, said the report.

Some women said that male relatives were also afraid and reluctant to leave the home with female relatives, as this would expose them to Taliban harassment.

A spokesman from the Vice and Virtue Ministry, the Taliban's morality police that enforces such decrees, said it was "nonsense and untrue" that women are scared to go to the shops.

"There is no problem for those sisters (women) who have observed hijab," said Abdul Ghafar Farooq. "As women are naturally weaker than men, then Shariah (Islamic law) has called mahrams essential when traveling with them for the sake of their dignity and respect."

He said harassing women was against the law.

Heather Barr, from Human Rights Watch, told the Associated Press that Afghan women's fear of leaving home unaccompanied was "damning and devastating" but not surprising. □

Thousands rail against Mexico's president and ruling party in 'march for democracy'



Demonstrators carry an effigy portraying Mexican President Andrés Manuel Lopez Obrador and presidential candidate Claudia Sheinbaum during a march organized by citizen organizations demanding that electoral autonomy be respected in the upcoming general elections, in Mexico City, Sunday, Feb. 18, 2024.

Associated Press

By **AMARANTA MARENTES**
Associated Press
MEXICO CITY (AP) — Thousands of demonstrators

cloaked in pink marched through cities in Mexico and abroad on Sunday in what they called a "march

for democracy" targeting the country's ruling party in advance of the country's June 2 elections.

The demonstrations called by Mexico's opposition parties advocated for free and fair elections in the Latin American nation and railed against corruption the same day presidential front-runner Claudia Sheinbaum officially registered as a candidate for ruling party Morena.

Sheinbaum is largely seen as a continuation candidate of Mexico's highly popular populist leader Andrés Manuel López Obrador. He's adored by many voters who say he bucked the country's elite parties from power in 2018 and represents the working class.

But the 70-year-old president has also been accused of making moves that endanger the country's democracy. Last year, the leader slashed funding for the country's electoral agency, the National Electoral Institute, and weakened oversight of campaign spending, something INE's head said could "wind up poisoning democracy itself." The agency's color, pink, has been used as a symbol by demonstrators. López Obrador has also attacked journalists in hours-long press briefings, has frequently attacked Mexico's judiciary and claimed judges are part of a conservative conspiracy against his administration.

In Mexico City on Sunday, thousands of people

dressed in pink flocked to the city's main plaza roaring "get López out." Others carried signs reading "the power of the people is greater than the people in power."

Among the opposition organizations marching were National Civic Front, Yes for Mexico, Citizen Power, Civil Society Mexico, UNE Mexico and United for Mexico.

"Democracy doesn't solve lack of water, it doesn't solve hunger, it doesn't solve a lot of things. But without democracy you can't solve anything," said Enrique de la Madrid Cordero, a prominent politician from the Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, in a video posted to social media calling for people to join the protests. □

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for them to meet the public present because people could experience this performance live and right before their eyes.

The group, under the leadership of directors and creators Diego Jaramillo and Yamila Hernandez are opening the doors to the ballroom to our local audience as well as our visitors so that everyone can have the privilege of experiencing this wonderful show.

Their presentation in America's Got Talent "was incredible" and they were able to meet the jury and many other artists staying there for three months. But the exhaustion and physical toll was so great that Diego suffered an accident, and because of this, they had to cancel all future commitments.

Hernandez explained that the idea for this project started in 2010 when she came to work in Aruba. After being on the island for a while she decided to stay and live here, and she met Diego Jaramillo, who is currently her partner. Together they came with the idea to establish a company together with other professional artists, with the goal of living from their art.

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by Blue Coast

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Rhythms Circus Company Aruba is a talented group of young people working daily to present their art in the form of acrobatics, dancing, acting and singing. After an impactful participation in one of America's biggest talent shows, they are now bringing their amazing talent to Aruba!

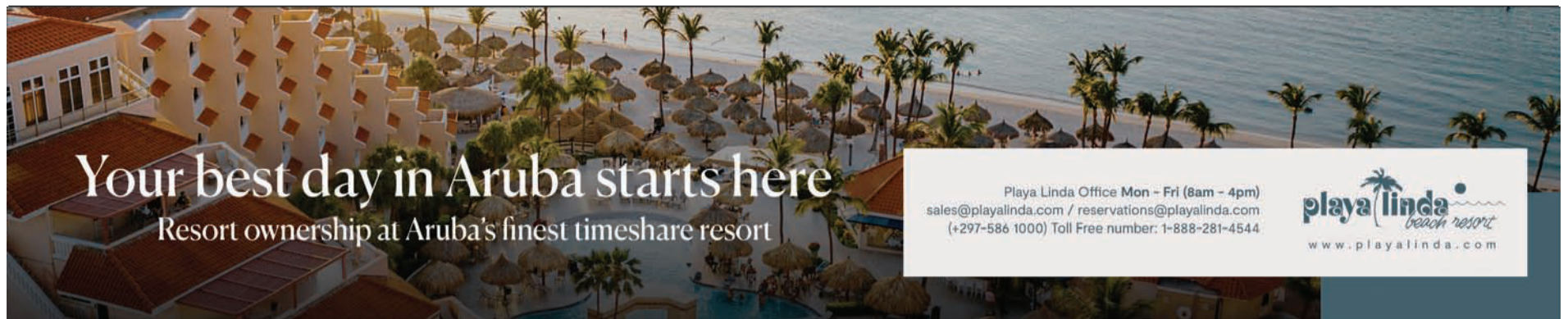
In a show full of light, music, and with performances to famous musical figures like Elvis Presley, Michael Jackson and Tina Turner, the group consisting of 15 people from various countries delights the audience with their artistic prowess at the Paseo Herencia Mall, every Wednesday and Friday starting at 7pm. Each day has a different show, so you can attend both nights for the complete experience!

RCCA also offers the possibility for you and your family to enjoy dinner before the show! Starting from 6pm, you and your family can delight from the wide-ranged menu that includes

Hernandez says that the work is hard – all of the performers are professional artists, and while the production of the show is not a challenge for them, selling the idea proved difficult since at the time, there weren't any shows of its kind on the island.

America's Got Talent
Currently they are offering a show with music, choreography and at the end, they have a shocking acrobatics ending, one that was seen by thousands of people around the world when the group travelled to Los Angeles in the United States to represent Aruba in America's Got Talent. Hernandez said that the show was very important





Double Triumph: Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort and Elements Restaurant Sweep USA TODAY 10 Best Awards

Only Aruba restaurant to garner gastronomic win, resort highest rated on island

EAGLE BEACH –Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, Aruba, and its fine dining restaurant, Elements, have just been named by USA TODAY as top Caribbean vacation and culinary experiences. On Jan. 12, 2024, at 12 p.m. EST, the American multi-platform news and information media company revealed that Bucuti & Tara received a USA TODAY 10Best Readers' Choice Award 2024 as a Best Caribbean Resort. Elements received a USA TODAY 10Best Readers' Choice Award 2024 as a Best Restaurant in the Caribbean.

"We thank USA TODAY 10Best editors and the voting public for honoring Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort and Elements as best of the best vacation and dining experiences, and I thank our dedicated staff who share their enthusiasm for our Aruba home and a passion for turning our guests' dreams into reality," shares Ewald Biemans, Owner/CEO of Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, Aruba.

Winning since 2017

Returning again in 2024 on the pinnacle list, Bucuti & Tara has reigned as an annual winner in the USA TODAY 10Best Readers' Choice Award for Best Caribbean Resort since 2017. The resort earned the highest votes in Aruba. As competition flourishes, voters continue to show their appreciation for the adults-only enclave's steadfast commitment to providing an unrivaled vacation experience dedicated to romance, wellness and sustainability. The resort's intense attention to detail and service-first approach provides an effortless vacation for guests who often become loyal visitors, so much so that USA TODAY indicated that experiencing Bucuti & Tara is "love at first stay."

Only Aruba restaurant honored

Elements is the only Aruba restaurant to be named a winner in the 2024 USA TODAY 10Best Read-



ers' Choice travel award contest for Best Restaurant in the Caribbean. Helmed by Executive Chef Alexander Powell, who hails from Michelin-starred restaurants, Elements is beloved for its full menus for world cuisine, vegan, vegetarian, gluten-free and its popular Authentic Aruba & Caribbean offerings created from recipes handed down over generations within staff members' families. The venue's romantic allure, dazzling oceanfront setting and attentive service amongst its sophisticated setting

Other list makers include a restaurant led by a James Beard award-winning chef, a hidden gem treasured by Anthony Bourdain and other flavor-forward, must-taste experiences in the Caribbean. Joining the timeless attribute of superior guest service and a memorable meal, each winner shares a sense of place with an increased focus on sourcing sustainably and celebrating local ingredients.

Behind the honors

Both USA TODAY 10Best Awards began as nominations result from editorial boards of highly seasoned travel journalists including Melanie Reffes, Jillian Dara, Brian Cicioni, Allison Tibaldi and Sharon Nolan. From there, the public was invited to vote over the course of one month.

About Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort

Declared the first CarbonNeutral® hotel in the Caribbean in August 2018, Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort the No. 1 Hotel in the Caribbean and No. 18 Hotel in the World according to Tripadvisor. Aruba's premier adults-only boutique resort is led by celebrated hotelier and environmentalist, Ewald Biemans, named by Caribbean Journal as the 2017 Caribbean Hotelier of the Year. The resort is nestled on the powdery white sands of Eagle Beach, home to protected sea turtles and named one of the "Dream Beaches of the World."

Home to the Caribbean's Safest, Healthiest Vacation Experience and Aruba's Health & Happiness Code seal, Bucuti has 104 well-appointed guestrooms, suites and penthouses. It offers sunbeds and shade for every guest; freshwater infinity pool; spa; WiFi; and complimentary iPad for use during stay. Award-winning healthy dining is enjoyed at oceanfront Elements, Tara Lounge and private beach dining. Reserved exclusively for guests and their friends, the open-air SandBar offers top-shelf cocktails and live music daily along with the Caribbean's first Healthy Hour. The resort is IGLTA and TAG Approved® as an LGBTQ-friendly hotel. Bucuti & Tara, a worldwide sustainable tourism leader, holds eco-certifications of CarbonNeutral®, LEED Gold, Green Globe Platinum and Travelife Gold and was named the World's Most Sustainable Hotel/Resort in 2016 by Green Globe. New in 2023, the resort is the newest member of Regenerative Travel.

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Did you know about...?

The history and meaning of the Aruban florin



(Oranjestad)—Aruba Today is proud to officially introduce a new segment called Did you know about...?, where we dive into some (historical) facts of Aruba, its culture and way of living. In this first edition, we look back at the Aruban florin: its history, design and symbolism.

In Aruba, we know the 5, 10, 25 and 50 cent coins, along with the 1 and 5 Florin coin. Aruban Florin bills include the 10, 25, 50, 100, and rarely, the 200 bills. In Papiamentu we call our currency Florin, but the umbrella term for money is placa. Cents are called cen (pronounced: seng), both in the singular and plural form. Most coins are circular and their size depend on their worth. However, the 50 cent coin is easily recognizable by their square shape, as is the 5 Florin coin by their golden color. Every coin has the Aruban emblem carved on it, with the other side displaying the worth of the coin. The bigger 1 and 5 florin coins, however, contain the carving of the emblem on one side, while displaying the side profile of the Dutch king, Willem-Alexander, on the other side. When his mother, Princess Beatrix, was reigning queen, it was her profile that was carved on the two coins.

Outdated Aruban coins and their names

In the past, Aruban coins had distinctive names and also varied in worth. For example, a 5-cent coin was once called Dos placa; 10-cent coins were called debchi; 25-cent coins were called diez placa and the 50-cent coin was once called Yotin (pronounced: jo-teen). We also used a distinctive coins worth 2 ½ cents, called placa too. However, this last coin is no longer in use and has become a relic of Aruban money. Back then, the 5-Florin coin used to also be square, but now it is circular.

Aruban bills: their design and symbolism

The Aruban Florin collection contains a variation of colorful bills, displaying incredibly detailed and beautiful designs that tell the story of Aruba on a single piece of paper.

Prior to 2019, the Aruban Florin bills were relatively simpler in design compared to now, but still included beautiful designs and colors, often depicting local animals. These past designs were made by the Aruban artist Everino Fingal in 1990 up to 2019. Between 1990 and 1993, the 5 Florin coin was a bill. The Fingal designs also included a 500-Florin bill, which has now been discontinued.

In 2019, the Central Bank of Aruba commissioned a new design of the Aruba Florin bills, this time selecting artist and former art teacher, Nigel Matthew, to present his new design. Matthew kept the tradition of including local animals and the familiar colors on the bills. However, he included additional designs that represent the Aruban culture and link

to the Indigenous inhabitants that were the first to set foot on the island. *Current design and symbolism*

10 florin

On the 10-florin bill, you can see a Turtuga blanco (white turtle). The blue color symbolizes the blue Caribbean Sea. You can also see the ruins of the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins, a coral motif, and the symbols of Cas Floria (traditional Aruban house design) with a piece of mosaic.

25 florin

On this orange bill, you can see an Aruban medicinal plant called Sho-shoro. The birds Trupiaal, Shoco, rock drawings, and the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic are also depicted. There is also a Purun di ceramica (clay pot), in reference to the relics left behind by our indigenous ancestors.

50 florin

On this bill, we see the Cododo (blue lizard found on the ABC islands), Cangreu di tera (land crab), Willem III Tower, and again the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, as well as a beach plant called Banana di rif. The colors are pink/purple.

100 florin

This bill is green in color, representing nature. Here we see the Yuwana (Iguana), Aloe, Toteki (lizard), the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, and a dance group performing the Baile di cinta (folkloric dance with silk ribbons).

200 florin

There is another bill with a value of 200 dollars. The brown color symbolizes the earth of Aruba. Here we see the Dornasol and the Warawara—both local birds, along with the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, the Tuna cactus plant, and the Caha di orgel (folkloric instrument, used for many traditional songs).

Extra fact:

the word "florin" supposedly is named after the Italian city of Florence or it's a reference to the Italian word "florino", both explanations related to historical Italian currencies.

Source: *Placa, placa, placa* by the National Library of Aruba



Exploring the Mainstreet of San Nicolas

SAN NICOLAS— At Just 11 miles southeast from Oranjestad you will enter the city San Nicolas, also known as Sunrise City or Chocolate City. A city that is rich in authentic culture and island charm. San Nicolas is Aruba's second largest city and was once a bustling company town dominated by the oil industry since the early 1930's.

Over the course of four decades, its demographics had changed immensely due to a stream of Afro-Caribbean and South American workers who came to fill the jobs in the oil refinery between the 1920's until the 1960's. To this day traces of the multicultural influences in culinary offerings and customs, housing and population are clearly visible in San Nicolas - more than anywhere else on the island.

Flow of history

if you are looking for history San Nicolas has it. Here you will find three amazing museums, The Museum of Industry, the Community Museum and the Carnival Euphoria, all within walking distance from one another. The Museum of Industry is

situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history which began in the 19th century. Here you will learn about gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and the tourism industries which made San Nicolas once a bustling business center. Experience the touching stories of those who were part of this history.

Nicolaas Store built in 1940 and renovated in 2014 is the home of the Community Museum. The collection is remarkable and spans millennia. Ancient fossils stand next to tableaus of an authentically recreated colonial kitchen and bedroom and 19th-century barber-shop, just to name a few of the items of old-time Aruba that has been preserved. A collection of artifacts and other objects of artistic, cultural, historical, or scientific importance can be found

here for the purpose of education or enjoyment. Carnival Euphoria is showcasing Aruba's Carnival. See how are Carnival has developed over the past 65 years.

The new San Nicolas

In the shadow of the refinery, an art capital is quietly beginning to grow. This is the new San Nicolas, a place that is starting to become a magnet for all that is young, cool and hip in Aruba. Indeed, San Nicolas has all of the ingredients of an emerging cultural hub — varied history, interesting architecture, and, perhaps most importantly, an urban layout that makes it walkable. As you walk around, the streets are silent but the walls are loud, filled with bright, colorful murals painted by a collection of artists from around the world. Thanks to the efforts



of various art organizations in Aruba, such as Art Rules Aruba and Aruba Art Fair, San Nicolas has had quite the aesthetic makeover with regards to vibrant street art. Each year more and more stunning murals are replacing broken down buildings with colorful art pieces that keep brightening up SunriseCity.

Must See, Do, Buy & Eat

A little bit of everything can be found in the main street. Stores selling shoes, clothing, jewelry you name it.

Arts & crafts by Cosecha store & Creative Center, a design store in which you can immerse yourself in discovering genuine and locally made arts and crafts which reflect the diversification of the Aruban craft heritage and the artistic supply of artisans. Don't miss out on trying the exquisite food offered by the cafes and restaurants or just enjoy a peaceful walk admiring the murals, mosaic benches and all the history San Nicolas has to offer. □



Aruba Tourism Authority honors loyal visitors at Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Emerald Ambassadors

of Aruba. This family was respectfully honored with a certificate acknowledging their years of visits,

loyalty, and love to the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three honoring levels are as follows:

- Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
- Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
- Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Emerald Ambassadors of Aruba Mr. Brian & Mrs. Colleen Mackey from New York, United States

Ms. Marouska Heyliger represent-

ing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa bestowed the certificate to the honorees, presented them with memorable gifts, and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their best-loved vacation destination, as their homeaway fromhome.

Top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

- Aruba's warm & consistent weather
- Aruba's drinking water
- Aruba's nice sandy beaches
- Aruba friendly people
- "Things to do!"

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island".



FDA expands use of asthma drug Xolair to treat severe food allergies

By JONEL ALECCIA
AP Health Writer

A medication used to treat asthma can now be used to help people with food allergies avoid severe reactions, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration said Friday.

Xolair, the brand name for the drug omalizumab, became the first medication approved to reduce allergic reactions caused by accidental exposure to food triggers. Patients as young as age 1 with allergies can take the drug by injection every two to four weeks, depending on their weight and their body's response to allergens.

An estimated 17 million people in the U.S. have the type of food allergies that can cause rapid, serious symptoms, including severe, whole-body reactions that are potentially deadly. People who use Xolair must continue to avoid the foods that cause them reactions, such as peanuts, cashews, hazelnuts, walnuts, milk products and eggs. The medication allows them to tolerate higher amounts of such foods without causing major reactions.

Many people with allergies — and their families — live with constant anxiety about exposure to allergens and often avoid dining out and other social situations.

"To have this protection is



This Feb. 20, 2015 photo shows an arrangement of peanuts in New York. Xolair, the brand name for the drug omalizumab, used to treat asthma can now be used to help people with food allergies avoid severe reactions, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration said Friday, Feb. 16, 2024.

Associated Press

going to be life-changing," said Dr. Robert Wood, director of the pediatric allergy division at Johns Hopkins Children's Center.

The FDA decision is based on a study led by Wood and funded by the National Institutes of Health. It showed that Xolair allowed about 68% of participants with peanut allergies to tolerate about 600 milligrams, or about 1/2 teaspoon, of peanut protein, compared with about 6% of those who received dummy injections.

The results were similar for other allergens such as tree nuts, milk, egg and wheat, a study abstract reported. Full results are expected to be presented at a meeting and published in a peer-reviewed journal later this month.

Wood estimated that 25% to 50% of people with food allergies, particularly children and young adults, would elect to use Xolair.

The drug has been used "off-label" to treat food allergies, said Dr. Ruchi Gupta, director of the Center for Food Allergy & Asthma Research at Northwestern University. She welcomed

full approval of the product. Xolair is a monoclonal antibody, a type of treatment that works by blocking the body's natural response to allergens. It was first approved in 2003 and has been used to treat asthma, nasal polyps and chronic hives. It is produced by drugmakers Novartis and Roche and is distributed by a Roche subsidiary, Genentech. □



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- 3 Bed Ocean View \$29,000
- WK 51 Ocean View \$60,000
- WK 52 Ocean View \$60,000
- WK 7 and 14 - all views

GOLD SEASON

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- 2 Bed Oceanside \$14,000
- 2 Bed Ocean View \$12,500
- 2 Bed Garden View \$10,000
- 3 Bed Ocean View \$20,000

Marriott Aruba Ocean Club PLATINUM SEASON

- 2 Bed Ocean Front \$36,000
- 2 Bed Ocean View \$25,000
- 1 Bed Ocean Front \$22,000
- 1 Bed Ocean View \$14,500

GOLD SEASON

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Noord	527 3200
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San Nicolas	584 5000
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Aviaanca	588 0059
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American Hunter Armstrong gets 2 more medals on final day of swim worlds. Israeli swimmer is jeered

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — American swimmer Hunter Armstrong helped himself to two more medals on the closing day of the World Aquatics Championships in Qatar on Sunday, winning the men's 4x100 medley relay with the United States team after taking the silver in the men's 50 backstroke. Armstrong, who swam the first leg, praised his teammates Nic Fink, Zach Harting and Matt King after the United States won in 3 minutes 29.80 seconds. The Netherlands took silver in 3:31.23 with Italy in bronze (3:31.59).

"We start strong and we finish stronger," Armstrong said. "We take pride in our medley relay."

The Ohio native won golds earlier in the championships in the mixed 4x100 medley relay and men's 100 backstroke.

Lewis Clareburt of New Zealand had a special victory celebration lined up for the men's 400 medley. After winning in a time of 4:09.72, the 24-year-old Clareburt did a brief imita-



Gold medalist Freya Constance Colbert of Great Britain, right, comforts silver medalist Anastasia Gorbenko of Israel after she was booed by the spectators at the end of the Women's 400m Individual Medley final at the World Aquatics Championships in Doha, Qatar, Sunday, Feb. 18, 2024.
Associated Press

tion of the New Zealand rugby team's Haka in the pool, opening his eyes wide and sticking out his tongue as he pushed an imaginary spear-like weapon above the water at the Aspire Dome in Doha.

British swimmer Freya Colbert won the women's 400 medley in 4:37.14, ahead of Israeli swimmer Anastasia Gorbenko, who clocked 4:37.36 and was jeered by the crowd when she spoke. Italy's Sara Franceschi was

third in 4:37.86. Lithuania's Ruta Meilutyte won the women's 50 breastroke title for the third straight time. She was pushed hard by China's Tang Qianting — the women's 100 breaststroke winner — who made

a great start before Meilutyte caught her at the end. Benedetta Pilato of Italy took the bronze medal.

Sweden's Sarah Sjoestroem also defended her title, and just missed out on beating her own world record of 23.61, when she won the women's 50 free in 23.69. American Kate Douglass finished second in 23.91 and Poland's Katarzyna Wasick was third in 23.95.

Daniel Wiffen of Ireland dominated the men's 1,500 freestyle, setting a personal best time of 14:34.07 and winning by a massive 10.54 seconds. "Thank you everyone for the support," he told the crowd. "I was really dying in the middle."

Germany's Florian Wellbrock edged out Frenchman David Aubry for the silver medal.

Isaac Cooper of Australia won the men's 50 backstroke in 24.13. He started strongly and held off the defending champion and world record holder Armstrong by .20 seconds. Poland's Ksawery Masiuk was third. □

Rain pushes Daytona 500 to Monday in first outright postponement since 2012



The grandstand at Daytona International Speedway is seen after the NASCAR Daytona 500 auto race was postponed Sunday, Feb. 18, 2024, in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Associated Press

By JENNA FRYER
AP Auto Racing Writer
DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — NASCAR has postponed the season-opening Daytona 500 until Monday because of two days of rain at Daytona International Speedway. The race had been sched-

uled for Sunday afternoon, although the weather forecast put that in doubt all week. The final practice for drivers was canceled Saturday, as was the Xfinity Series race.

The Xfinity Series race is now scheduled to be held Monday morning, hours ahead

of the 4 p.m. start for the Daytona 500.

Joey Logano is set to start from the pole for Team Penske.

The last time the Daytona 500 was postponed a full day was in 2012. NASCAR completed 20 laps in 2020 before rain halted activity, and the race resumed the next day.

In making the early call Sunday, NASCAR prevented fans from sitting in the rain awaiting a decision on whether the race would proceed. It continued a willingness NASCAR exhibited earlier this month when it moved the exhibition Clash at the Coliseum up a full day on little notice because of poor weather headed toward Los Angeles.

Spire Motorsports driver Zane Smith offered on so-

cial media to mingle with fans Sunday.

"Hate the rain won today but going to try to make the most of it and meet some of you guys," Smith tweeted. "Let me know your camp spot and I will try to come find you! Might be able to drag a few other drivers along too." Added Spire teammate Carson Hocevar: "Unfortunately cards we have been dealt as a sport, but probably the right call. Feel bad for the fans that saved up for this trip and now can't stay."

Despite the postponement, NASCAR and Daytona continued many of the prerace activities, including celebrity visits from singer and Trackhouse Racing co-owner Pitbull and actor Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson.

Pitbull's prerace concert was scrapped. He already agreed to return next year and perform then. Johnson is the race's grand marshal, tasked with delivering the command for drivers to start their engines.

"Everything happens for a reason," said Madison Marsh, the reigning Miss America who was scheduled to drive the pace car and lead the field to the green flag. "Although I would have loved, obviously, to get to drive the pace car, there have been so many other parts of this weekend that have been fantastic.

"Just getting to be a part of that, I'm never going to regret coming here. ... Obviously would have liked to drive, but everything is going to work out the way it's supposed to." □

Shohei Ohtani won't play in Dodgers' spring training opener, stays away from live batting practice

By LARRY LAGE
AP Sports Writer

Shohei Ohtani did not participate in live batting practice Sunday, and his Los Angeles Dodgers spring training debut is on hold. Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said Ohtani, who is coming back from elbow surgery, will not play in Thursday's opener against the San Diego Padres. The two-time MVP signed a record \$700 million, 10-year contract as a free agent in December.

Roberts, though, has been encouraged by Ohtani's progress physically. "He's a lot further along than I think any of us — maybe not named Shohei — would have expected," Roberts said on Saturday. "He's worked really hard, very diligent in his work, so he's ahead of schedule."

"What that means as far as when he's going to play in a Cactus League game, I don't know that answer. But it just seems like every single day, he keeps better and feels real good."

The two-time AL MVP won't pitch this season following right elbow surgery on Sept. 19 but hopes to be ready as a hitter by the March 20 opener against the Padres in Seoul, South Korea. He hit .304 with 44 home runs last year with the Los Angeles Angels.

ACUÑA'S ASCENT

Ronald Acuña Jr. has already done a lot with the Atlanta Braves, but manager Brian Snitker is expecting even more from the 26-year-old outfielder.

"He's going to set records that probably he's the only one who is going to be able to outdo them," Snitker said. "The scary part is, he's at an age where he's going to get better."

Acuña won his first NL MVP award last season after becoming the first player with 40 homers and 70 stolen bases in a major league season.

RELIVING HISTORY

In the Boston Red Sox spring training clubhouse in Fort Myers, Florida, during a rainy morning that short-



Los Angeles Dodgers designated hitter Shohei Ohtani (17) participates in spring training baseball workouts at Camelback Ranch in Phoenix, Sunday, Feb. 18, 2024.

Associated Press

ened their workouts, the team's infamous matchup with the New York Mets on

Game 6 of the 1986 World Series was playing on one of the TVs.

Hall of Famer Jim Rice, a member of that team, watched some of it along with a few pitchers, including newcomer Lucas Giolito.

Just before the winning run came home after a grounder went through first baseman Bill Buckner's legs, the satellite TV provider's signal went out. By the time the signal was restored, another program was airing on the MLB Network.

MAKING MOVES

The Baltimore Orioles acquired 29-year-old lefty Matt Krook for cash from the New York Yankees in a trade. □



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Eagle Beach – When you think of a restaurant that pleases the needs of a whole family or a large group of people with all different tastes? Think Water's Edge Restaurant. Located at the shore of Aruba's most wonderful beach, The Eagle Beach Aruba. Water's Edge Restaurant is guaranteed to serve you a fantastic magical night to remember. Whether you prefer to enjoy the view from indoors air conditioned comfort, outdoors in the soft tropical breeze or under a palapa with your toes in the sand. This spectacular restaurant offers the best ocean view sunset or sky full of stars dinner while the crispy Caribbean night wind caresses your face and plays with your hair.

From the minute you arrive there will be a great staff welcoming you with the most contagious smiles and warmth. The intense menu with a great variety of appetizers, main courses and delicious desserts will not disappoint. Seafood, Steaks and international favorites. All on one menu specially made just for you.

Culinary Voyage

Start your gastronomic journey with a scrumptious appetizer such as the Maryland Crab Cakes, maybe the Crispy



Calamari or the mouthwatering creamy Garlic Tarragon Shrimp. You can also opt for a classic French Onion Soup, a Lobster Bisque or the famously Water's Edge House Wedge, a crisp wedge of fresh romaine lettuce topped with homemade blue cheese dressing, diced tomatoes, chopped bacon, caramelized pecans and blue cheese crumbles, drizzled with balsamic reduction. This followed by the Chef's special of seafood such as Fresh salmon filet seasoned and grilled, topped with lemon cilantro butter and served with homemade mashed potatoes and fresh asparagus, a nice plate of Ahi Tuna or a succulent pasta dish like the Florentina Fettuccine Alfredo. Meat Lovers will have their fix with choices of a devourable 22oz. Bone-In "Tomahawk" Rib-Eye, pan seared in garlic infused oil and finished in the oven or our juicy N.Y Strip Loin, seasoned & grilled. All our steaks options are seasoned with a blend of kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper. Served with homemade mashed potatoes, seasoned vegetables and a choice of red wine reduction, green peppercorn demi glace, mushroom sauce, or bacon blue cheese butter. For extra sides the options are delectable. Fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, mashed or baked potatoes, fries or rice and beans. Combine your personal choice with one of the most exclusive wine from the great selection of international wines to compliment your dish. Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled kids menu and there are also optional dishes for all vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free guests. To end the culinary voyage with some luscious sweetness, the desserts are wild. From a piece of coconut flan, NY cheese cake, carrot cake, chocolate brownie or our classic Tiramisu with kahlua and amaretto served with choco-



late sauce and coffee jelly. Not to mention the fresh and light piece of key lime pie.

Creating memories

If you are planning a birthday dinner, here you will receive a nice bottle of champagne to take home with you to extend your experience even further whether on the beach or your own private balcony.

Live entertainment

Just about every day of the week, there is a different live entertainment by the best local artists for you to enjoy. Whether you're in a romantic mood, or more in a swinging mood, there is absolutely a night especially for you where you can combine great music with delicious cocktails mixed with concoctions. In addition, Water's Edge offers three daily Happy Hours from 12pm-1pm, 4pm-6pm and again from 9pm-10pm with all premium brands specially priced.

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Whether you join us for breakfast, lunch or dinner, Water's Edge Restaurant & Bar offers a relaxed and inspirational dining experience overlooking the beautiful Eagle Beach with spectacular ocean views. Gather with friends and family for drinks and appetizers or a night of pampering and relaxation.

Thank you to all our guests

From the bottom of our hearts, we would like to Thank all of our guests who showed us so much love and support all throughout the year, and hopefully will continue to do so in the years to come. What we are most grateful for is that we could get back to doing what we love, which is looking after our guests. So, thank you for every dinner, lunch, breakfast, every to-go order, every glass of wine, every birthday, anniversary and date-night that you spent with us this last year. To our new guests, Welcome! We hope you to see you back soon! ☑



"Water's Edge Restaurant is where magnificent beach views, amazing food and excellent service come together."

Water's Edge is open daily from 8am – 11pm

To reserve your table please call **+297 583-8000 / ext 8106** or direct line **+297 586-9494**

For more information about the menus, entertainment and hours, please visit the website **watersedge-aruba.com**